THE THIRD DAY.

20th February 1918.

The Assembly met at 12 noon on Wednesday, the 20th February 1918.

25. Measures to be adopted for the development of trade in the town of Quilon.

Mr. K. A. Krishna Pattar (Member, Trading Classes, Quilon) represented that the merchants were suffering much inconvenience and requested that the following measures be adopted :—

(*a*) The construction of godowns, like those in Alleppey, for storing articles of merchandise at the two existing Chowkeys at Quilon.

(*b*) The re-construction of the Tobacco Bankshall landing ghat at Quilon, which had been a *debris* for the past ten years.

(*c*) The construction of boat basins on either side of the Quilon canal, like those in Alleppey, with facilities for loading and unloading goods from the canal, and the widening of the road by the side of the canal. The work should be carried out for about a mile from the Kochupilamudu landing place to the Forest landing (Sanchayakadavu).

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

III. PROTECTION.

(I) Legislation.

26. Reform of the Legislative Council.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) traced the origin of the Legislative Council and submitted that the amendment of the original Regulation by the passing of Regulation V of 1073 was a step in the backward direction. He complained that, during the last 4 or 5 years, there had been frequent exercise by Government of legislation by means of Royal Proclamations, although there was no necessity for it; for, as the Council was constituted at present, the Government could pass any laws in the usual way at any time and without the least difficulty. That method of treating the Legislative Council, which was a precious gift from His Highness the Maha Raja, was defeating its very intentions. He next dwelt at length on the expansion of the Legislative Councils and the Home Rule movement in British India and explained how the spirit of democracy had spread and evoked new hopes and aspirations in the people in the British Indian Provinces. He then referred to the proposals made for according Native States a place in the scheme of self-government for the Indian Empire. With a view to the progressive realisation of the reforms proposed by the Member, he made the following suggestions in regard to the Legislative Council:—

(*a*) Increase of the non-official element in the Legislative Council.

(*b*) Provision of an elected non-official majority in the Council.

(*c*) Statutory grant of the right of election of the non-official Members.

(*d*) The right to interpellate Government on administrative matters.

(*e*) The right to discuss and pass the annual Budget before adoption by Government.

(*f*) The right to pass Resolutions on questions of public importance.

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